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For: ELECTRONIC SHIPMENT PLANNER

**VERIFIED STATEMENT (DECLARATION) CLAIMING SMALL ENTITY  
STATUS (37 C.F.R. 1.9(f) and 1.27(c)) - SMALL BUSINESS CONCERN**

I hereby declare that I am

- ☐ the owner of the small business concern identified below:  
☒ an official of the small business concern empowered to act on behalf of the concern identified below:

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I hereby declare that the above identified small business concern qualifies as a small business concern as defined in 13 CFR 121.3-18, and reproduced in 37 CFR 1.9(d), for purposes of paying reduced fees under section 41(a) and (b) of Title 35, United States Code, in that the number of employees of the concern, including those of its affiliates, does not exceed 500 persons. For purposes of this statement, (1) the number of employees of the business concern is the average over the previous fiscal year of the concern of the persons employed on a full-time, part-time or temporary basis during each of the pay periods of the fiscal year, and (2) concerns are affiliates of each other when either, directly or indirectly, one concern controls or has the power to control the other, or a third party or parties controls or has the power to control both.

I hereby declare that rights under contract or law have been conveyed to and remain with the small business concern identified above with regard to the invention, entitled ELECTRONIC SHIPMENT PLANNER by inventor(s) Robert A. Davidson, Corey Goux and Michael Newcity described in

☒ the specification filed herewith  
☐ application serial no. \_\_\_\_\_, filed \_\_\_\_\_  
☐ patent no. \_\_\_\_\_, issued \_\_\_\_\_

If the rights held by the above identified small business concern are not exclusive, each individual, concern or organization having rights to the invention is listed below\* and no rights to the invention are held by any person, other than the inventor, who could not qualify as a small business concern under 37 CFR 1.9(d) or by any concern which would not qualify as a small business concern under 37 CFR 1.9(d) or a nonprofit organization under 37 CFR 1.9(e).

\*NOTE: Separate verified statements are required from each named person, concern or organization having rights to the invention averring to their status as small entities. (37 CFR 1.27)

NAME \_\_\_\_\_  
ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_  
☐ Individual ☐ Small Business Concern ☐ Nonprofit Organization

NAME \_\_\_\_\_  
ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_  
☐ Individual ☐ Small Business Concern ☐ Nonprofit Organization

I acknowledge the duty to file, in this application or patent, notification of any change in status resulting in loss of entitlement to small entity status prior to paying, or at the time of paying, the earliest of the issue fee or any maintenance fee due after the date on which status as a small entity is no longer appropriate. (37 CFR 1.28(b))

I hereby declare that all statements made herein of my own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under section 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code, and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application, any patent issuing thereon, or any patent to which this verified statement is directed.

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**ELECTRONIC SHIPMENT PLANNER**Technical Field and Background of Invention

This patent application claims priority based on United States Provisional Patent Application No. 60/174,887 filed on January 7, 2000. This invention relates to an interactive electronic shipment planner. The invention is a computer based application that enables efficient management and tracking of shipments using a convenient and easy to read calendar interface. The invention can be accessed globally via the Internet at anytime using standard computer hardware, software, and communications equipment. The invention is further applicable for personal events scheduling. Moreover, the calendar display format of the shipment planner can be readily customized to suit the needs of the user. Unlike traditional planners, the present invention effects electronic filtering of information contained in a data repository to display only a select portion of the information to the user.

Summary of the Invention

Therefore, it is an object of the invention to provide an electronic shipment planner which provides ready and convenient management and tracking of shipments.

It is another object of the invention to provide an electronic shipment planner which provides shipment data in an easy to read, interactive calendar format.

It is another object of the invention to provide an electronic shipment planner which can be accessed globally via the Internet.

It is another object of the invention to provide an electronic shipment planner which utilizes standard compute hardware, software, and communications equipment.

It is another object of the invention to provide an electronic shipment planner which is applicable for personal events scheduling.

It is another object of the invention to provide an electronic shipment planner which electronically filters information contained in a data repository using customized electronic user reports to display only a select portion of the information to the user.

It is another object of the invention to provide an electronic shipment planner which promotes time and cost efficiency in the shipment industry.

These and other objects of the present invention are achieved in the preferred embodiments disclosed below by providing an electronic shipment planner adapted for electronically presenting shipment and scheduling information to a user. The shipment and scheduling information includes at least one shipment event date. The shipment planner is linked to a shipment data repository containing shipment and scheduling information. A system interface communicates with the shipment data repository. An interactive shipment data link is electronically associated with the shipment and scheduling information, and cooperates with the system interface as commanded by the user to access and retrieve the associated shipment and scheduling information contained in the shipment data repository. A calendar display interface displays the shipment planner to the user in a calendar format, such that the interactive shipment data link is provided on the shipment event date associated with the shipment and scheduling information.

According to another preferred embodiment of the invention, shipment data input means communicates with the shipment data repository for loading shipment and scheduling information into the shipment data repository.

According to yet another preferred embodiment of the invention, the system interface is a Web browser, such as "Netscape Navigator" or "Microsoft Explorer".

According to yet another preferred embodiment of the invention, the shipment data link is a predetermined portion of the shipment and scheduling information.

5 According to yet another preferred embodiment of the invention, the shipment data link is a shipment reference code.

According to yet another preferred embodiment of the invention, the shipment reference code is selected from the group consisting of a bill of lading number and a purchase order number.

10 According to yet another preferred embodiment of the invention, a plurality of interactive shipment data links are electronically associated with at least one of an inbound shipment, an outbound shipment, and a third party shipment.

15 According to yet another preferred embodiment of the invention, the plurality of interactive shipment data links are color-coded to readily distinguish between inbound, outbound, and third party shipments.

According to yet another preferred embodiment of the invention, a legend is provided for indicating the color-code for each inbound shipment, outbound shipment, and third party shipment.

20 According to yet another preferred embodiment of the invention, a display options data repository contains format parameters for customizing the format of the calendar display interface.

According to yet another preferred embodiment of the invention, a display options

data interface communicates with the display options data repository for setting desired format parameters contained in the display options data repository.

According to yet another preferred embodiment of the invention, an input device selects the interactive shipment data link from the calendar display interface.

5 According to yet another preferred embodiment of the invention, the input device is a computer mouse.

According to yet another preferred embodiment of the invention, a report data repository contains profile parameters for displaying the shipment and scheduling information in a customized user report.

10 According to yet another preferred embodiment of the invention, a report data interface communicating with the report data repository for setting desired profile parameters contained in the report data repository.

15 According to yet another preferred embodiment of the invention, a personal event data repository contains personal event information of the user. The personal event information is associated with a personal event date.

According to yet another preferred embodiment of the invention, a personal event data interface communicates with the personal event data repository for loading personal event information into the personal event data repository.

20 According to yet another preferred embodiment of the invention, an interactive personal event data link is electronically associated with the personal event information, and cooperates with the system interface as commanded by the user to access and retrieve the associated personal event information contained in the personal event data repository.

According to yet another preferred embodiment of the invention, the personal event data link is a predetermined portion of the personal event information

According to yet another preferred embodiment of the invention, the personal event data link is a title of the personal event information.

5 In another embodiment, the invention is an electronic shipment planner adapted for electronically presenting shipment and scheduling information to a user. The shipment and scheduling information includes at least one shipment event date. The shipment planner is linked to a shipment data repository containing shipment and scheduling information.

10 A system interface communicates with the shipment data repository. An interactive shipment data link is electronically associated with the shipment and scheduling information, and cooperates with the system interface as commanded by the user to access and retrieve the associated shipment and scheduling information contained in the shipment data repository. A personal event data repository contains personal event information of the user. The personal event information is associated with a personal event date. An  
15 interactive personal event data link is electronically associated with the personal event information of the user, and cooperates with the system interface as commanded by the user to access and retrieve the associated personal event information contained in the personal event data repository. A calendar display interface displays the shipment planner to the user in a calendar format, such that the interactive shipment data link and the interactive personal  
20 event data link are provided on their respective shipment and personal event dates associated with the shipment and scheduling information and the personal events information. The shipment data link and the personal event data link are color-coded to

readily distinguish between the associated shipment and scheduling information and the personal events information. A legend indicates the color-code for each of the shipment data and personal event data links.

In yet another embodiment, the invention is a method for electronically presenting shipment and scheduling information to a user. The shipment and scheduling information includes at least one shipment event date. The method includes the step of creating a shipment data repository containing shipment and scheduling information. A system interface is then provided to communicate with the shipment data repository. An interactive shipment data link is then electronically associated with the shipment and scheduling information. The shipment data link cooperates with the system interface as commanded by the user to access and retrieve the associated shipment and scheduling information contained in the shipment data repository. The shipment planner is then displayed to the user in a calendar format, such that the interactive shipment data link is provided on the shipment event date associated with the shipment and scheduling information.

According to another preferred embodiment of the invention, the method includes the step of providing a plurality of interactive shipment data links associated with at least one of an inbound shipment, an outbound shipment, and a third party shipment.

According to yet another preferred embodiment of the invention, the method includes the step of color-coding the plurality of interactive shipment data links to readily distinguish between inbound, outbound, and third party shipments.

According to yet another preferred embodiment of the invention, the method includes the step of providing a legend for indicating the color-code for each inbound shipment,



outbound shipment, and third party shipment.

According to yet another preferred embodiment of the invention, the method includes the step of creating a personal event data repository containing personal event information of the user, the personal event information being associated with a personal event date.

5 According to yet another preferred embodiment of the invention, the method includes the step of electronically associating an interactive personal event data link with the personal event information of the user. The personal event data link cooperates with the system interface as commanded by the user to access and retrieve the associated personal event information contained in the personal event data repository.

10 In yet another embodiment, the invention is a computer readable memory medium, encoded with data representing a computer program, that can be used by a computer system to direct the computer system to execute a method for electronically presenting shipment and scheduling information to a user. The shipment and scheduling information includes at least one shipment event date. The medium includes a system interface  
15 communicating with a shipment data repository containing shipment and scheduling information. An interactive shipment data link is electronically associated with the shipment and scheduling information, and cooperates with the system interface as commanded by the user to access and retrieve the associated shipment and scheduling information contained in the shipment data repository. A calendar display interface displays a calendar format,  
20 such that the interactive shipment data link is provided on the shipment event date associated with the shipment and scheduling information.

According to another preferred embodiment of the invention, the memory medium

includes a plurality of interactive shipment data links associated with at least one of an inbound shipment, an outbound shipment, and a third party shipment.

According to yet another preferred embodiment of the invention, the memory medium includes a display options data interface communicating with a display options data repository for selecting desired profile parameters contained in the display options data repository.

According to yet another preferred embodiment of the invention, the memory medium includes a report data interface communicating with a report data repository for selecting desired profile parameters contained in the report data repository.

According to another preferred embodiment of the invention, the memory medium includes an interactive personal event data link which is electronically associated with personal event information of the user, and which cooperates with the system interface as commanded by the user to access and retrieve the associated personal event information contained in a personal event data repository.

#### Brief Description of the Drawings

Some of the objects of the invention have been set forth above. Other objects and advantages of the invention will appear as the description proceeds when taken in conjunction with the following drawings, in which:

Figure 1 is a flow diagram illustrating the overall operation of an electronic shipment planner according to one preferred embodiment of the invention;

Figure 2 is a general schematic diagram showing communication of the client interface with the system Web server;

Figure 3 is a screen shot of the calendar interface in a month display format;

Figure 4 is a screen shot of the calendar interface in a day display format;

Figure 5 is a screen shot of the calendar interface in a horizontal week display format;

Figure 6 is a screen shot of the calendar interface in a vertical week display format;

5        Figure 7 is a flow diagram illustrating the process for customizing the calendar display format;

Figure 8 is a screen shot of the user report data interface for creating customized shipment reports based on parameters selected by the user;

10       Figure 9 is a flow diagram illustrating steps of the process for creating the customized shipment report;

Figures 10 and 11 are flow diagrams illustrating further steps of the process for creating the customized shipment report;

Figure 12 is a flow diagram illustrating the process for adding a user event to the shipment planner;

15       Figure 13 is a screen shot of the user events interface;

Figure 14 is a flow diagram illustrating the “onclick” process for displaying shipment and event information from the calendar interface;

Figure 15 is a screen shot of a pop-up window providing shipment tracing information;

20       Figure 16 is a pop-up window displayed when “mousing over” a shipment reference code;

Figure 17 is a pop-up window displayed when “mousing over” a user events

reference code;

Figure 18 is a flow diagram demonstrating the process for changing the display of the calendar interface; and

Figure 19 is a screen shot of the planner options interface.

5        Description of the Preferred Embodiment and Best Mode

Referring now specifically to the drawings, an electronic shipment planner according to the present invention is illustrated in the flow diagram of Figure 1 and referenced generally at 10. The shipment planner 10 is applicable for presenting shipment and scheduling information and personal events information to a user in a convenient, easy to read, interactive calendar display format. As indicated in Figure 2, users access the shipment planner 10 from a client interface 11 via an Internet service provider 12 and suitable communications equipment 14, such as a modem. The client interface 11 may be any application, such as a PC Web browser, which understands computer markup language, such as HTML and Dynamic-HTML. The shipment planner 10 is made available to the client interface 11 from a system Web server 15 via Internet service provider 16 and standard communications equipment 17. Data is supplied to the shipment planner on or off site through the Internet. According to one embodiment, users access the shipment planner 10 from a workstation including a computer, keyboard, mouse, monitor, and modem connection. The shipment planner 10 provides ready and convenient access to shipment delivery and tracking information from any location in the world, on any day of the week, and at any time of day.

Referring now to the flow diagram of Figure 1, the shipment planner 10 includes four

data repositories 21, 22, 23, and 24, respectively: (1) “display options data”—contains display parameters used to customize how the shipment planner is displayed to the user; (2) “user reports data”—contains report profiles which query the shipment data to create customized user reports; (3) “shipment data”—contains all shipment and scheduling information; (4) “user events data”—contains personal events information.

### Display Options

Upon accessing the shipment planner 10 via the client interface 11, preprogrammed default display parameters are retrieved from the display options data repository 21. The display parameters define a calendar interface 30, shown in Figures 3-6, in the form of a convenient, easy-to-read calendar. After the initial display, the user can readily modify the format of the calendar interface 30 by selecting various customization options indicated in the flow diagram of Figure 7. Referring to Figure 7, from the default screen shown in Figure 3, the user chooses to view the calendar interface 30 in a desired screen format 32 including either a “normal” format which displays a page header and footer, or a “full screen” format which omits the page header and footer. In the full screen format, the user can further elect to set the display width based on the screen width or on a preprogrammed default parameter. The user then chooses to view the accessed shipment data and personal events information in either a month, day, or week display format, 33, 34, and 35, respectively. The default setting shown in Figure 3 illustrates a month display format 33. Figure 4 illustrates a day display format 34. The week display 35, shown in Figures 5 and 6, can be viewed in either a horizontal or a vertical format, 36 and 37, respectively.

### User Report Data

Referring to Figures 8-11, customized profiles are created using a report data interface 40. The user reports are titled by the user for subsequent retrieval, and are stored in the user reports data repository 22. The user may choose to create a report based on numerous options, including: the shipment delivery status 41 (delivered, undelivered, delayed, delivered with an exception); the payment status 42 (paid, unpaid, overdue); the paying party 43 (collect or prepaid); date restrictions 44 (pickup, due, appointment, delivery); past or future date time frame 45 and 46 (yesterday, tomorrow, last week, next week, last # of days, next # of days, week-to-date, month-to-date, date range); inbound options 47 (origin state, origin zip code, shipper location, shipper state, shipper zip code, shipper serving station); outbound options 48 (destination state, destination zip code, consignee location, consignee state, consignee zip code, consignee serving station); and third party options 49 (paying location, origin state, origin zip code, origin station, destination state, destination zip code, destination station).

As shown in Figure 9, to create a customized report, the user first selects the shipment status 41 for desired shipments to be retrieved in the report. The user chooses between delivered shipments, delayed shipments, undelivered shipments, shipments delivered with exception, or shipments of any status. After this selection, the user then chooses the shipment payment status 42 for shipments which are either paid, unpaid, overdue, or of any payment status. The user then selects the paying party 43 choosing between shipments which are either prepaid by the paying party, or those which require collection from the paying party.

Shipment date restrictions 44 are selected, as indicated in Figure 10. The user first selects the shipment date type—either the pickup date, the delivery date, the due date, or the appointment date. For pickup and delivery date shipments, the user further selects a past date limit 45 including yesterday, last week, a selected past number of days, last week-to-date, last month-to-date, or a specified date range. For due date and appointment date shipments, the user further selects a future date limit 46 including tomorrow, next week, a selected number of days in the future, or a specified future date range.

Referring to Figure 11, after selecting the shipment date restrictions 44, the user selects inbound, outbound, and third party options, 47, 48, and 49. The user starts with freight type options. For the inbound freight option selections 47, the user chooses between select inbound freight, all inbound freight, and no inbound freight. Select inbound freight includes one or more of the origin states, origin zip codes, destination locations, destination states, destination zip codes, and destination serving station. Next, the user makes outbound freight options selections 48. For select outbound freight, the user chooses one or more of the destination states, destination zip codes, origin locations, origin states, origin zip codes, and origin serving station. Finally, the user makes third party freight option selections 49. For select inbound freight, the user chooses one or more of the paying locations, origin states, origin zip codes, origin locations, destination states, destination zip codes, destination locations.

#### Shipment Data

Shipment data is entered into the electronic shipment data repository 23 which can be updated at any time by authorized field and general office personnel via electronic data

interchange (EDI) or the Internet. Preferably, shipment data is entered into the repository at the time a service center receives a shipper's bill of lading. The customized user reports, described above, operate to electronically filter the shipment data contained in the shipment data repository to provide only the selected information requested by the user.

## Personal Events

Referring now to the flow diagram of Figure 12, mouse-clicking on the "Add Event" icon 50 displayed in the calendar interface 30 allows the user to add new personal events to the shipment planner 10. From a user events interface 50, shown in Figure 13, the user inputs the title of the event, a description of the event, the day of the event, the starting time, and the ending time. Once this input is completed, the user then elects to clear, delete, save and apply, or cancel the event. Mouse-clicking on the "Clear" icon 51 clears the event data from display and returns the user to the events interface. Mouse-clicking on the "Delete" icon 52 triggers a confirmation query 53 asking the user to confirm the deletion. When confirmed, the event data is deleted and the user is returned to the calendar interface 30. Mouse-clicking on the "Save & Apply" icon 54 saves the inputted event data in the user events data repository 24, and transfers the user back to the calendar interface 30. Mouse-clicking on the "Cancel" icon 55 transfers the user directly to the calendar interface 30 without saving the new events data. Previously entered events data is stored in the user events data repository 24.

## Using the Shipment Planner 10

The user navigates the shipment planner 10 from his workstation using the attached mouse and a convenient point-and-click, menu-driven software. Upon accessing the



shipment planner 10, the selected customized user report electronically filters the information contained in the shipment data repository 23, as described above, to display only the desired shipment data in the calendar interface 30. From the calendar interface 30, the user can choose to view shipment and scheduling information or personal events data by mouse-clicking directly on a shipment data link 61 or a personal events link 62 appearing on the screen (See Figures 3-6). The links 61 and 62 are displayed in the calendar interface 30 on certain days of the month corresponding to their respective event dates. In one embodiment, the shipment data link 61 is a shipment reference code, such as an internal system reference number, a bill of lading number, or a purchase order number, which is associated with certain shipment data and scheduling information contained in the shipment data repository 23. When a shipment reference code is selected, the client interface 11 accesses the associated shipment and scheduling information and downloads this information for display to the user. The personal events data link 62 is preferably a one or two word event title. When an event title is selected, the client interface 11 accesses the associated personal events information contained in the user events data repository 24 and downloads this information for display to the user.

For convenient viewing, the shipment reference codes and event titles are preferably color-coded, as indicated in the legend 63, to readily distinguish between inbound shipments, outbound shipments, third party shipments, and personal events. For example, inbound shipments may be designated by the color blue, outbound shipments designated by red, third party shipments designated by green, and personal events designed by orange.

Referring to Figures 14 and 15, using an "onclick process" 70 the user mouse-clicks

directly on either a shipment data link 61 or personal events data link 62 in the calendar interface 30, as previously described. Upon selecting a shipment data link 61, the client interface 11 downloads the associated shipment data from the shipment data repository 23 and a pop-up trace window 80, shown in Figure 15, is displayed to the user. The trace window 80 provides detailed information regarding the selected shipment, including its present location, shipment origin, destination, bill of lading number, purchase order number, number of pieces, shipment weight, and the e-mail addresses of the origin and destination service centers. If a personal events data link 62 is selected, the client interface 11 downloads the associated event data from the user events data repository 24. The selected event information is then displayed, as shown in Figure 13. This information indicates the event title, a description of the event, the day of the event, the event starting time, and the event ending time.

Referring again to Figures 1 and 3, from the calendar interface 30, the user can further elect to view shipment data and events information for preceding and succeeding calendar units by mouse-clicking on the "Previous" and "Next" icons, 81 and 82, respectively. The "Refresh" icon 83 reloads the calendar interface. By "mousing-over" 84 (without clicking) shipment reference code and event titles displayed in the calendar interface 30, respective pop-up windows 85 and 86 provide a brief summary of the shipment status, as shown in Figure 16, and the personal event, as shown in Figure 17. The shipment summary includes an internal system reference number, a purchase order number, a concise status statement, and the name of the person signing the delivery. The event summary includes the title of the event, a brief description, and the duration of the event.

### Changing the Calendar Interface 30

Referring to Figures 18 and 19, from the calendar interface 30, the user can select the “Options” icon 90 to change the default shipment reference codes which appear on the calendar interface 30 upon accessing the shipment planner 10, and the actual dates upon which the shipment reference codes are posted. In order to change the default settings, the client interface 11 accesses both the display options data repository 21 to display the current options selected, and the user reports data repository 22 to display the available shipment reports.

A planner options interface 100, shown in Figure 19, allows the user to customize the appearance of the calendar interface 30 by first selecting which shipment report to access. Preferably, a drop-down window displays all previously entered reports stored in the user reports data repository for convenient selection by the user. After selecting the desired report, the user then chooses whether to display one or more of inbound, outbound, or third party shipments contained in the report, and whether the shipments will be displayed to the calendar interface on either the due or delivery date, or the shipment date. The shipment reference code to be displayed is then selected from either a purchase order number, a bill of lading number, or an internal system reference number. The user then selects a default display by month, day, or week with a further option to display the calendar interface without header and footer, or to expand the calendar interface to screen size based on the user’s monitor. Finally, the user elects to started the display with either the current date or the date of the first active shipment. For the week display, the user can further elect a horizontal format (See Figure 5) or a vertical format (See Figure 6). Once the



We claim:

1. An electronic shipment planner adapted for electronically presenting shipment and scheduling information to a user, the shipment and scheduling information including at least one shipment event date, said shipment planner comprising:

a shipment data repository containing shipment and scheduling information;

a system interface communicating with said shipment data repository;

an interactive shipment data link electronically associated with the shipment and scheduling information, and cooperating with said system interface as commanded by the user to access and retrieve the associated shipment and scheduling information contained in said shipment data repository; and

a calendar display interface for displaying said shipment planner to the user in a calendar format, such that said interactive shipment data link is provided on the shipment event date associated with the shipment and scheduling information.

2. An electronic shipment planner according to claim 1, and comprising shipment data input means communicating with said shipment data repository for loading shipment and scheduling information into said shipment data repository.

1 3. An electronic shipment planner according to claim 1, wherein said system interface  
2 comprises a Web browser.

1 4. An electronic shipment planner according to claim 1, wherein said shipment data link  
2 comprises a predetermined portion of the shipment and scheduling information.

1 5. An electronic shipment planner according to claim 1, wherein said shipment data link  
2 comprises a shipment reference code.

1 6. An electronic shipment planner according to claim 5, wherein said shipment  
2 reference code is selected from the group consisting of a bill of lading number and a  
3 purchase order number.

1 7. An electronic shipment planner according to claim 1, and comprising a plurality of  
2 interactive shipment data links electronically associated with at least one of an inbound  
3 shipment, an outbound shipment, and a third party shipment.

1 8. An electronic shipment planner according to claim 7, wherein said plurality of  
2 interactive shipment data links are color-coded to readily distinguish between inbound,  
3 outbound, and third party shipments.

1 9. An electronic shipment planner according to claim 8, and comprising a legend for  
2 indicating the color-code for each inbound shipment, outbound shipment, and third party  
3 shipment.

1 10. An electronic shipment planner according to claim 1, and comprising a display  
2 options data repository containing format parameters for customizing the format of said  
3 calendar display interface.

1 11. An electronic shipment planner according to claim 10, and comprising a display  
2 options data interface communicating with said display options data repository for setting  
3 desired format parameters contained in said display options data repository.

1 12. An electronic shipment planner according to claim 1, and comprising an input device  
2 for selecting said interactive shipment data link from said calendar display interface.

1 13. An electronic shipment planner according to claim 12, wherein said input device  
2 comprises a computer mouse.

1 14. An electronic shipment planner according to claim 1, and comprising a report data  
2 repository containing profile parameters for displaying the shipment and scheduling  
3 information in a customized user report.



1 15. An electronic shipment planner according to claim 14, and comprising a report data  
2 interface communicating with said report data repository for setting desired profile  
3 parameters contained in said report data repository.

1 16. An electronic shipment planner according to claim 1, and comprising a personal  
2 event data repository containing personal event information of the user, the personal event  
3 information being associated with a personal event date.

1 17. An electronic shipment planner according to claim 16, and comprising a personal  
2 event data interface communicating with said personal event data repository for loading  
3 personal event information into said personal event data repository.

1 18. An electronic shipment planner according to claim 17, and comprising an interactive  
2 personal event data link electronically associated with the personal event information, and  
3 cooperating with said system interface as commanded by the user to access and retrieve the  
4 associated personal event information contained in said personal event data repository.

1 19. An electronic shipment planner according to claim 18, wherein said personal event  
2 data link comprises a predetermined portion of the personal event information

1 20. An electronic shipment planner according to claim 18, wherein said personal event  
2 data link comprises a title of the personal event information.

1 21. An electronic shipment planner adapted for electronically presenting shipment and  
2 scheduling information to a user, the shipment and scheduling information including at least  
3 one event date, said shipment planner comprising:

4 a shipment data repository containing shipment and scheduling information;

5 a system interface communicating with said shipment data repository;

6 an interactive shipment data link electronically associated with the shipment and  
7 scheduling information, and cooperating with said system interface as commanded by the  
8 user to access and retrieve the associated shipment and scheduling information contained  
9 in said shipment data repository;

10 a personal event data repository containing personal event information of the user,  
11 the personal event information being associated with a personal event date;

12 an interactive personal event data link electronically associated with the personal

13 event information of the user, and cooperating with said system interface as commanded by  
14 the user to access and retrieve the associated personal event information contained in said  
15 personal event data repository;

16 a calendar display interface for displaying said shipment planner to the user in a  
17 calendar format, such that said interactive shipment data link and said interactive personal  
18 event data link are provided on their respective shipment and personal event dates  
19 associated with the shipment and scheduling information and the personal events  
20 information;

21 wherein said shipment data link and said personal event data link are color-coded  
22 to readily distinguish between the associated shipment and scheduling information and the  
23 personal events information; and

24 a legend for indicating the color-code for each of said shipment data and personal  
25 event data links.

1 22. An electronic shipment planner according to claim 21, and comprising a personal  
2 event data interface communicating with said personal event data repository for loading  
3 personal event information into said personal event data repository.

1 23. An electronic shipment planner according to claim 21, wherein said shipment data  
2 link comprises a shipment reference code.

1 24. An electronic shipment planner according to claim 22, wherein said shipment  
2 reference code is selected from the group consisting of a bill of lading number and a  
3 purchase order number.

1 25. An electronic shipment planner according to claim 21, wherein said personal event  
2 data link comprises a predetermined portion of the personal event information.

1 26. An electronic shipment planner according to claim 21, wherein said personal event  
2 data link comprises a title of the personal event information.

1 27. An electronic shipment planner according to claim 21, and comprising a display  
2 options data repository containing format parameters for customizing the format of said  
3 calendar display interface.

1 28. An electronic shipment planner according to claim 21, and comprising a report data  
2 repository containing profile parameters for displaying the shipment and scheduling  
3 information in a customized user report.

1 29. An electronic shipment planner according to claim 28, and comprising a report data  
2 interface communicating with said report data repository for selecting desired profile  
3 parameters contained in said report data repository.

1 30. A method for electronically presenting shipment and scheduling information to a  
2 user, the shipment and scheduling information including at least one shipment event date,  
3 said method comprising the steps of:

4 creating a shipment data repository containing shipment and scheduling information;

5 providing a system interface communicating with the shipment data repository;

6 electronically associating an interactive shipment data link with the shipment and  
7 scheduling information, the shipment data link cooperating with the system interface as  
8 commanded by the user to access and retrieve the associated shipment and scheduling  
9 information contained in the shipment data repository; and

10 displaying the shipment planner to the user in a calendar format, such that the  
11 interactive shipment data link is provided on the shipment event date associated with the  
12 shipment and scheduling information.

1 31. A method according to claim 30, wherein the step of electronically associating an  
2 interactive shipment data link with the shipment and scheduling information comprises  
3 providing a plurality of interactive shipment data links associated with at least one of an  
4 inbound shipment, an outbound shipment, and a third party shipment.

1 32. A method according to claim 31, and comprising the step of color-coding the plurality  
2 of interactive shipment data links to readily distinguish between inbound, outbound, and  
3 third party shipments.

1 33. A method according to claim 32, and comprising the step of providing a legend for  
2 indicating the color-code for each inbound shipment, outbound shipment, and third party  
3 shipment.

1 34. A method according to claim 30, and comprising the step of creating a personal event  
2 data repository containing personal event information of the user, the personal event  
3 information being associated with a personal event date.

1 35. A method according to claim 34, and comprising the step of electronically associating  
2 an interactive personal event data link with the personal event information of the user, the  
3 personal event data link cooperating with the system interface as commanded by the user  
4 to access and retrieve the associated personal event information contained in the personal  
5 event data repository.

1 36. A computer readable memory medium, encoded with data representing a computer  
2 program, that can be used by a computer system to direct the computer system to execute  
3 a method for electronically presenting shipment and scheduling information to a user, the  
4 shipment and scheduling information including at least one shipment event date, the  
5 medium comprising:

6 a system interface communicating with a shipment data repository containing  
7 shipment and scheduling information;

8 an interactive shipment data link electronically associated with the shipment and  
9 scheduling information, and cooperating with said system interface as commanded by the  
10 user to access and retrieve the associated shipment and scheduling information contained  
11 in the shipment data repository; and

12 a calendar display interface for displaying a calendar format, such that said interactive  
13 shipment data link is provided on the shipment event date associated with the shipment and  
14 scheduling information.

1 37. A computer readable memory medium according to claim 36, and comprising a  
2 plurality of interactive shipment data links associated with at least one of an inbound  
3 shipment, an outbound shipment, and a third party shipment.



1 38. A computer readable memory medium according to claim 36, and comprising a  
2 display options data interface communicating with a display options data repository for  
3 selecting desired format parameters contained in said display options data repository.

1 39. A computer readable memory medium according to claim 36, and comprising a report  
2 data interface communicating with a report data repository for selecting desired profile  
3 parameters contained in said report data repository.

1 40. A computer readable memory medium according to claim 36, and comprising an  
2 interactive personal event data link electronically associated with personal event information  
3 of the user, and cooperating with said system interface as commanded by the user to access  
4 and retrieve the associated personal event information contained in a personal event data  
5 repository.

### Abstract of the Disclosure

An electronic shipment planner is adapted for electronically presenting shipment and scheduling information to a user. The shipment and scheduling information includes at least one shipment event date. The shipment planner is linked to a shipment data repository containing shipment and scheduling information. A system interface communicates with the shipment data repository. An interactive shipment data link is electronically associated with the shipment and scheduling information, and cooperates with the system interface as commanded by the user to access and retrieve the associated shipment and scheduling information contained in the shipment data repository. A calendar display interface displays the shipment planner to the user in a calendar format, such that the interactive shipment data link is provided on the shipment event date associated with the shipment and scheduling information.

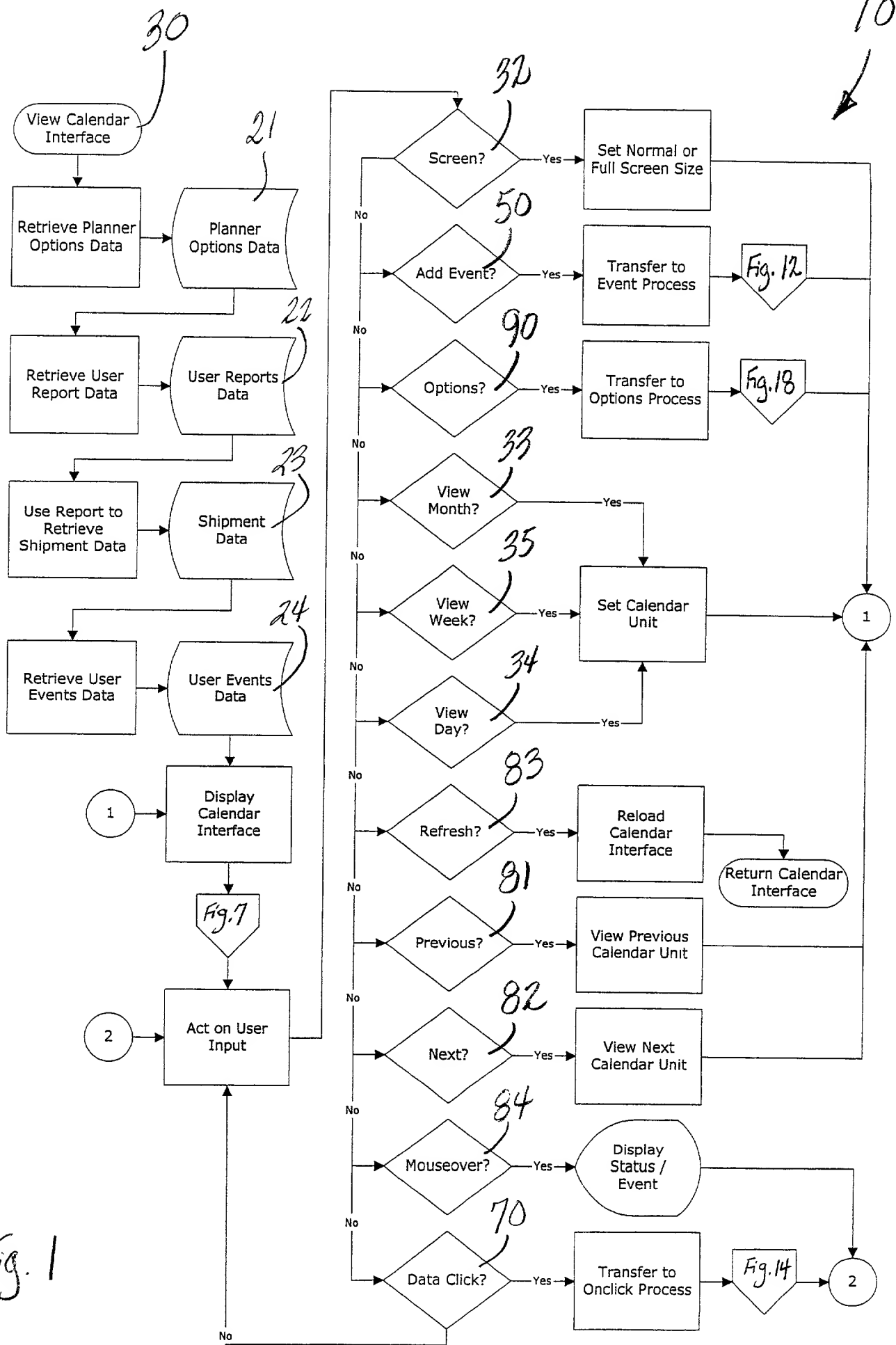


Fig. 1

006707-00000000

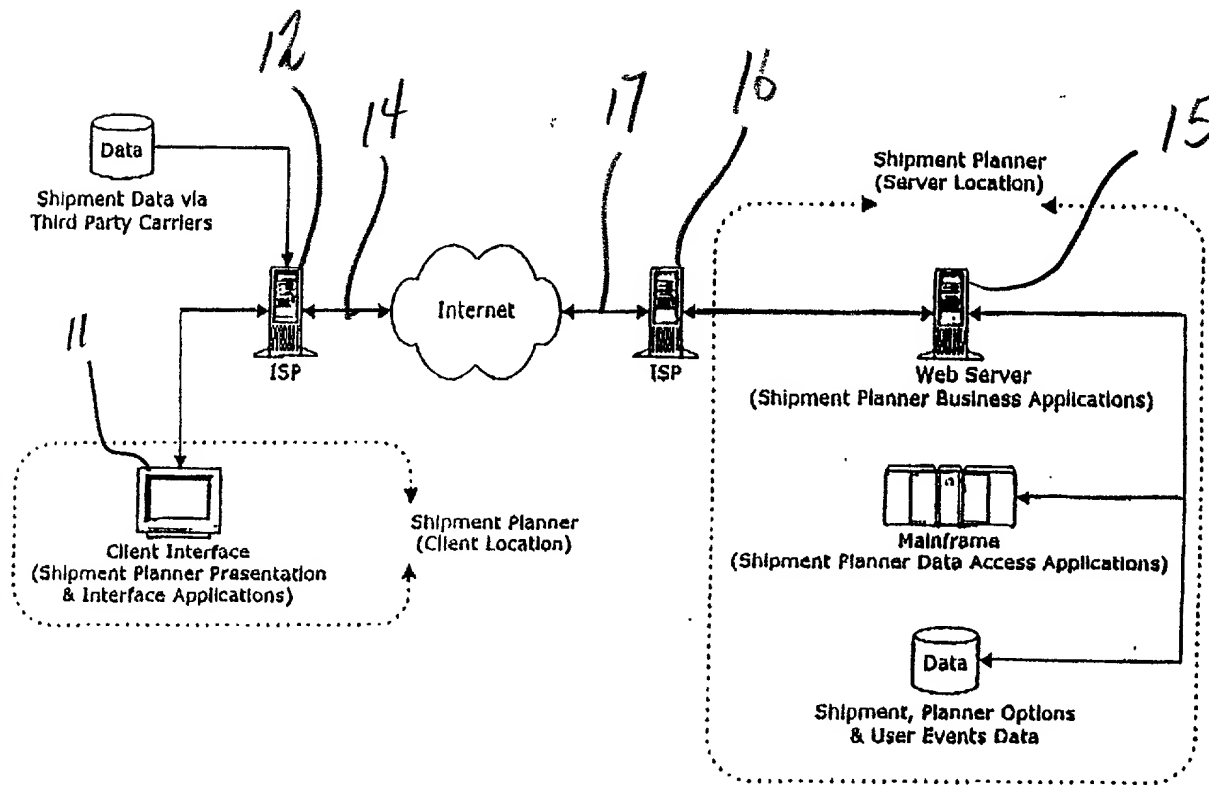


Fig. 2

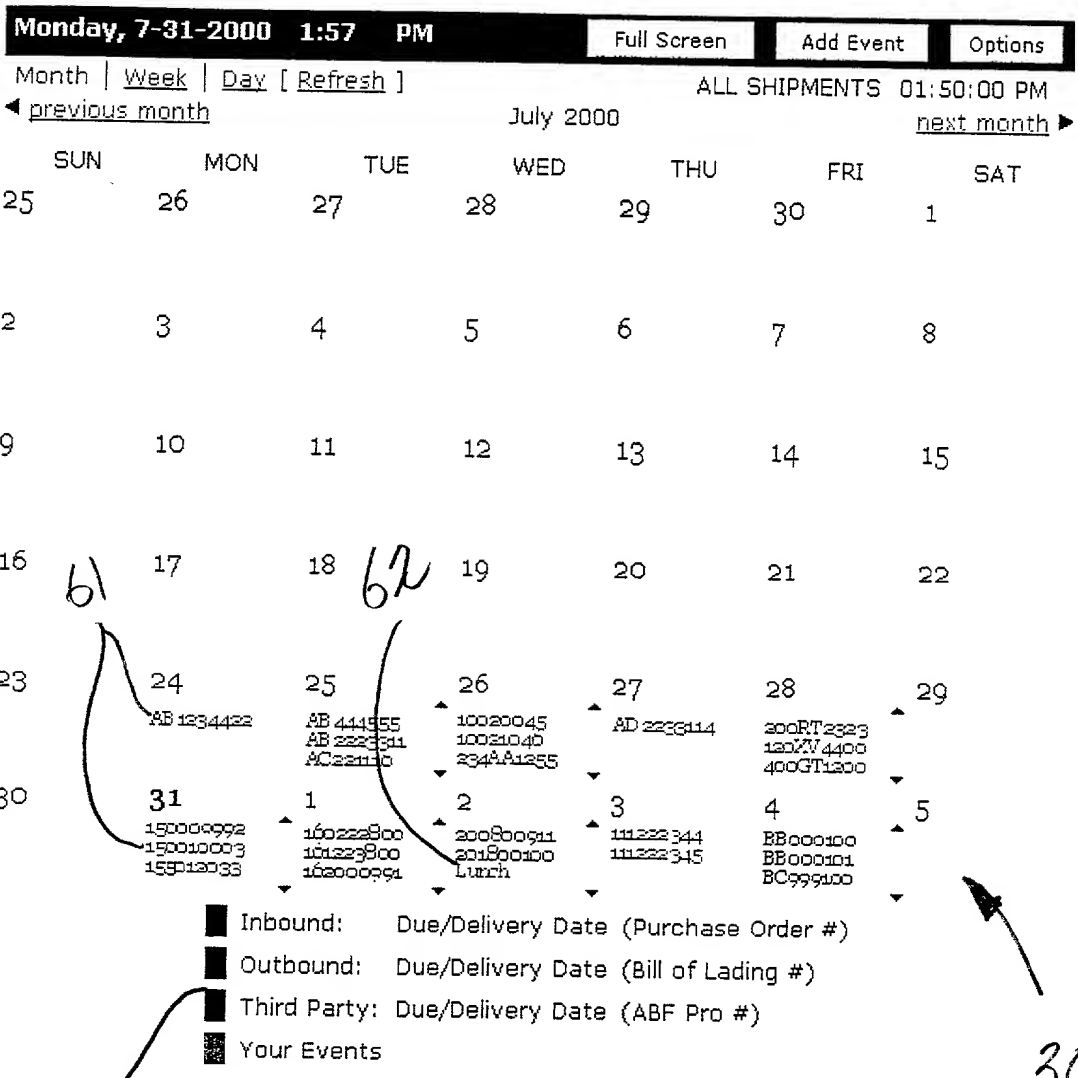


Fig. 3

006T0900-101000

63

30

30

**Monday, 7-31-2000 2:22 PM**
Full Screen
Add Event
Options

---

[Month](#) | [Week](#) | Day [ [Today](#) ] [ [Refresh](#) ]
 ALL SHIPMENTS 01:50:00 PM

◀ [previous day](#)
[next day](#)

Tuesday -- August 1, 2000

1  
1၀၀၂၂၃၆၀၀  
1၀၀၂၂၃၆၀၀  
1၀၀၀၀၀၀၀၀  
1၀၀၀၀၀၀၀၀  
1၀၀၀၀၀၀၀၀

61

[illegible]

63

- Inbound: Due/Delivery Date (Purchase Order #)
- Outbound: Due/Delivery Date (Bill of Lading #)
- Third Party: Due/Delivery Date (ABF Pro #)
- Your Events

Fig. 4

30  
↓

Monday, 7-31-2000 2:13 PM Full Screen Add Event Options

Month | Week | Day [ Horizontal ] [ Refresh ] ALL SHIPMENTS 01:50:00 PM  
 ◀ previous week July 30, 2000 <-> August 5, 2000 next week ▶

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI
30	31	1	2	3	4
	150009922	160222800	200800911	111222344	BB000100
	150010003	161222800	201800100	111222345	BB000101
	150012033	162000091	Lunch		BC990100
	150200141	160111000	205900100		DD100999
	155200145	165222888	210899100		DF000888
	159900999		215900110		
			230800222		
			240911333		

61

SAT  
5

63

- Inbound: Due/Delivery Date (Purchase Order #)
- Outbound: Due/Delivery Date (Bill of Lading #)
- Third Party: Due/Delivery Date (ABF Pro #)
- Your Events

Fig. 5

006T0T:086T0900

30  
↓

Monday, 7-31-2000 2:24 PM Full Screen Add Event Options  
Month | Week | Day [ Vertical ] [ Refresh ] ALL SHIPMENTS 01:50:00 PM  
◀ previous week July 30, 2000 <-> August 5, 2000 next week ▶

S 30  
U  
N

M 31 150009992 155300999  
O 150010003  
N 155012033  
155000144  
155000145

T 1 100222800  
U 101223800  
E 102000991  
180111999  
185222888

W 2 200800911  
E 201800100  
D Lunch  
205300100  
210800100

215700110  
230800222  
240911333

T 3 111222344  
H 111222345  
U

F 4 BB000100  
R BB000101  
I BC999100  
DD100000  
DF000888

S 5  
A  
T

- Inbound: Due/Delivery Date (Purchase Order #)
- Outbound: Due/Delivery Date (Bill of Lading #)
- Third Party: Due/Delivery Date (ABF Pro #)
- Your Events

Fig. 6

006400-10100  
006400-10100



Parameter	Value	Standard Error	t-Statistic	p-Value
$\alpha_1$	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	1.0000
$\alpha_2$	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	1.0000
$\alpha_3$	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	1.0000
$\alpha_4$	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	1.0000
$\alpha_5$	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	1.0000
$\alpha_6$	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	1.0000
$\alpha_7$	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	1.0000
$\alpha_8$	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	1.0000
$\alpha_9$	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	1.0000
$\alpha_{10}$	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	1.0000
$\alpha_{11}$	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	1.0000
$\alpha_{12}$	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	1.0000
$\alpha_{13}$	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	1.0000
$\alpha_{14}$	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	1.0000
$\alpha_{15}$	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	1.0000
$\alpha_{16}$	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	1.0000
$\alpha_{17}$	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	1.0000
$\alpha_{18}$	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	1.0000
$\alpha_{19}$	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	1.0000
$\alpha_{20}$	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	1.0000
$\alpha_{21}$	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	1.0000
$\alpha_{22}$	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	1.0000
$\alpha_{23}$	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	1.0000
$\alpha_{24}$	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	1.0000
$\alpha_{25}$	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	1.0000
$\alpha_{26}$	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	1.0000
$\alpha_{27}$	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	1.0000
$\alpha_{28}$	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	1.0000
$\alpha_{29}$	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	1.0000
$\alpha_{30}$	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	1.0000
$\alpha_{31}$	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	1.0000
$\alpha_{32}$	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	1.0000
$\alpha_{33}$	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	1.0000
$\alpha_{34}$	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	1.0000
$\alpha_{35}$	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	1.0000
$\alpha_{36}$	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	1.0000
$\alpha_{37}$	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	1.0000
$\alpha_{38}$	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	1.0000
$\alpha_{39}$	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	1.0000
$\alpha_{40}$	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	1.0000
$\alpha_{41}$	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	1.0000
$\alpha_{42}$	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	1.0000
$\alpha_{43}$	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	1.0000
$\alpha_{44}$	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	1.0000
$\alpha_{45}$	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	1.0000
$\alpha_{46}$	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	1.0000
$\alpha_{47}$	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	1.0000
$\alpha_{48}$	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	1.0000
$\alpha_{49}$	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	1.0000
$\alpha_{50}$	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	1.0000
$\alpha_{51}$	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	1.0000
$\alpha_{52}$	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	1.0000
$\alpha_{53}$	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	1.0000
$\alpha_{54}$	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	1.0000
$\alpha_{55}$	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	1.0000
$\alpha_{56}$	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	1.0000
$\alpha_{57}$	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	1.0000
$\alpha_{58}$	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	1.0000
$\alpha_{59}$	0.0000	0.0000		

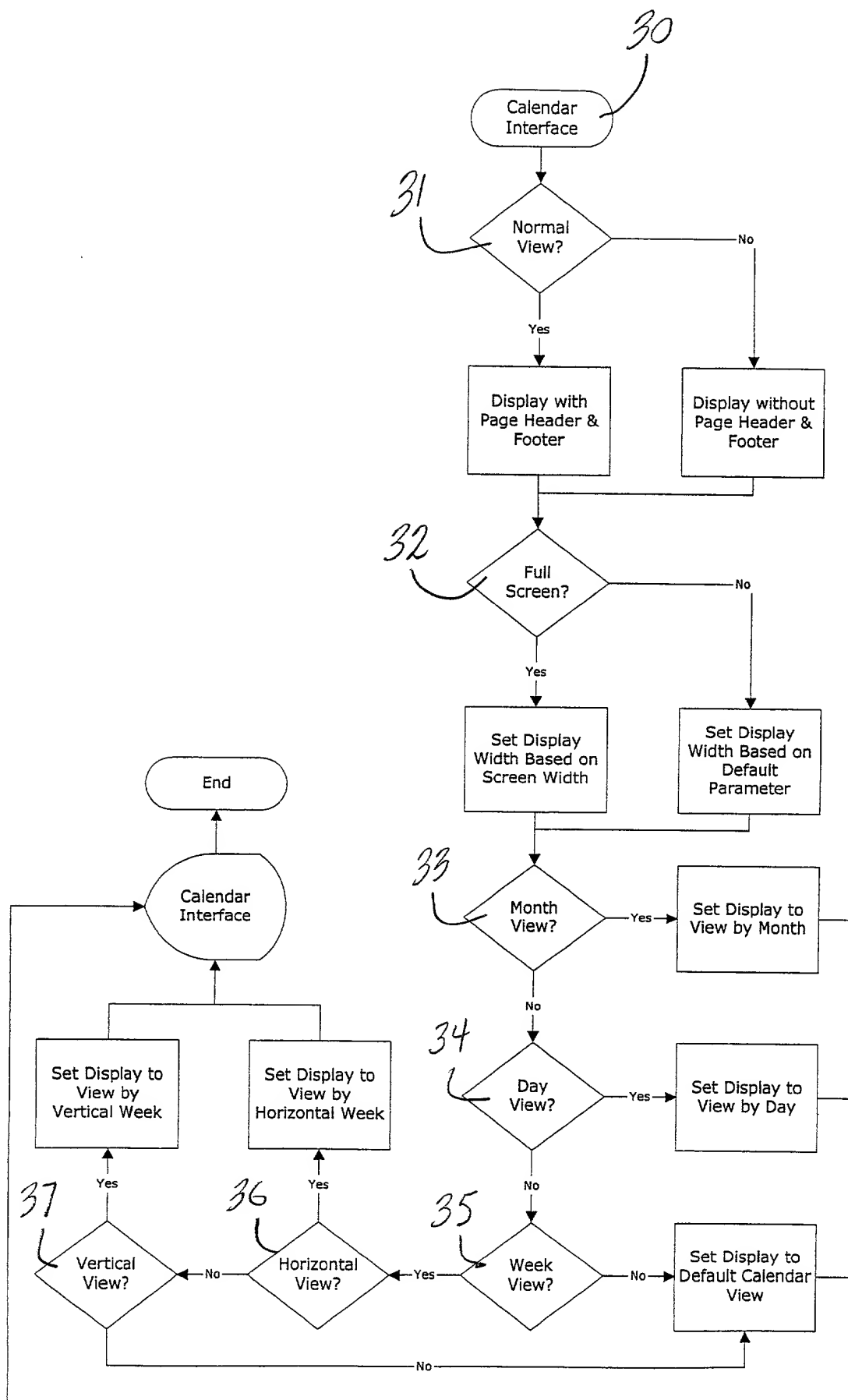


Fig. 7

40

Report Wizard

Create Report Like: ALL SHIPMENTS [Help?]

Include shipments with these status and payment selections...

Any Delivery Status And Any Payment Status And bill is paid by Any Party

Limit my report by date when the shipments...

were picked up Limit By: (select one) # of Days: From: 2000, Aug 9 Wed Thru: 2000, Aug 9 Wed

The report should also include...

<input checked="" type="radio"/> all inbound <input type="radio"/> no inbound <input type="radio"/> select inbound from my vendors' <input type="checkbox"/> origin state, or <input type="checkbox"/> origin zip and to my <input type="checkbox"/> location, or <input type="checkbox"/> state, or <input type="checkbox"/> zip, or <input type="checkbox"/> serving station	<input checked="" type="radio"/> all outbound <input type="radio"/> no outbound <input type="radio"/> select outbound to my customers' <input type="checkbox"/> destination state, or <input type="checkbox"/> destination zip and from my <input type="checkbox"/> location, or <input type="checkbox"/> state, or <input type="checkbox"/> zip, or <input type="checkbox"/> serving station	<input checked="" type="radio"/> all third party <input type="radio"/> no third party <input type="radio"/> select third party to the <input type="checkbox"/> paying location and from the <input type="checkbox"/> origin state, or <input type="checkbox"/> origin zip, or <input type="checkbox"/> origin station and to the <input type="checkbox"/> destination state, or <input type="checkbox"/> destination zip, or <input type="checkbox"/> destination station
---	--	--

Fig. 8

00691080-101000

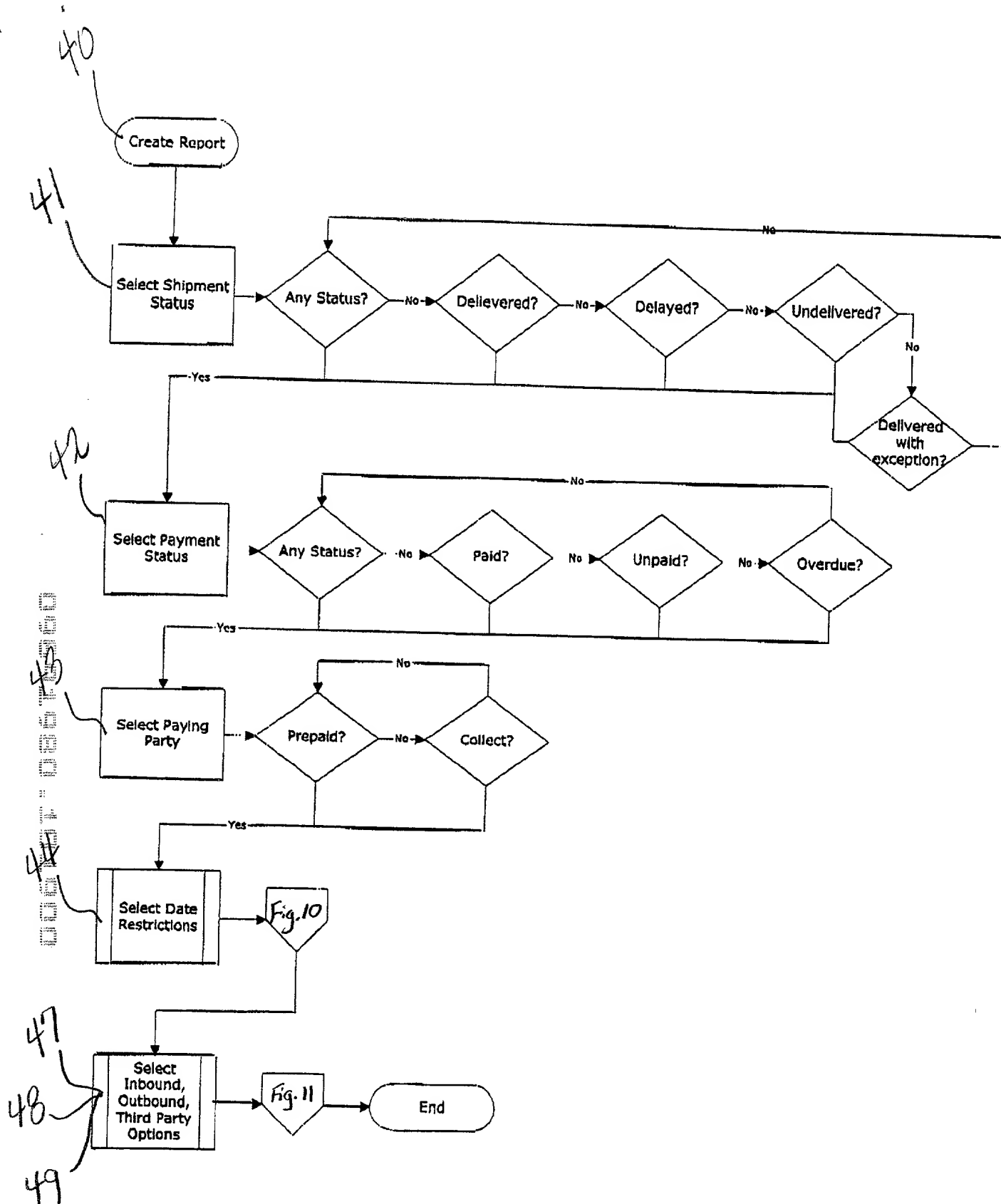


Fig. 9

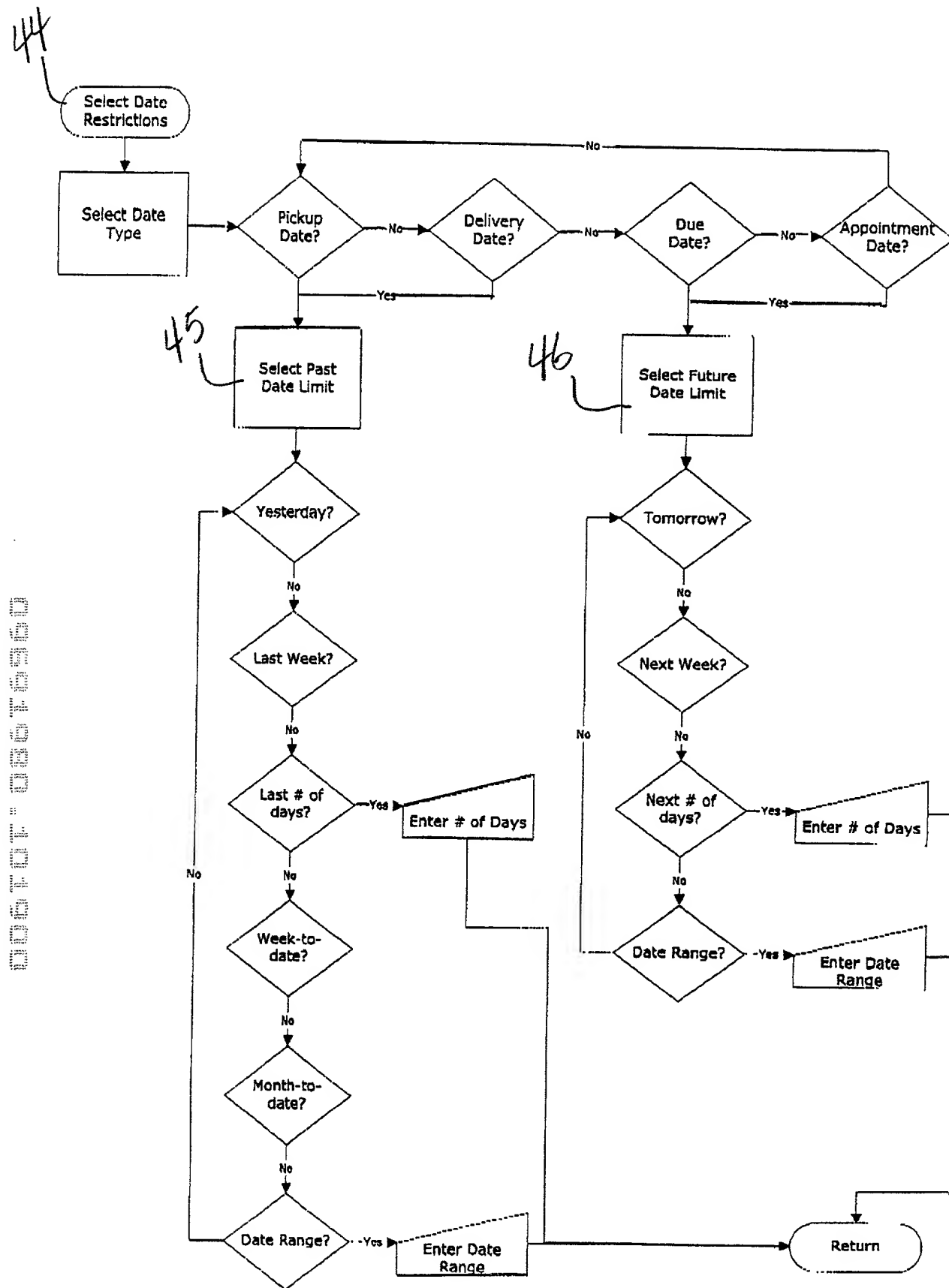
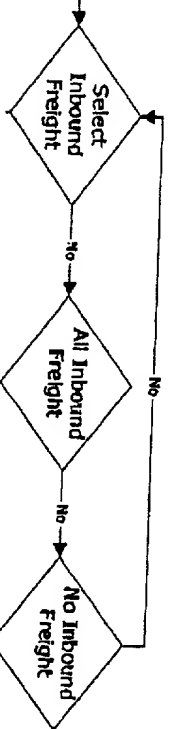


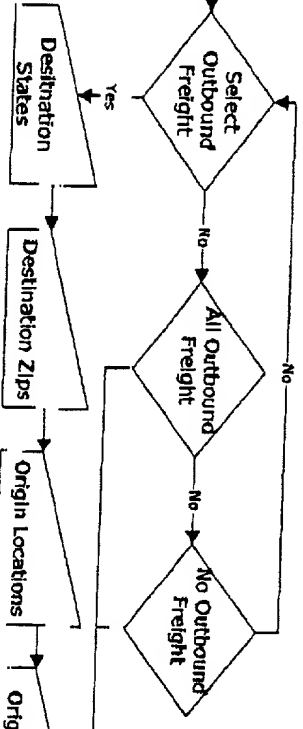
Fig. 10

Select Freight Type Options

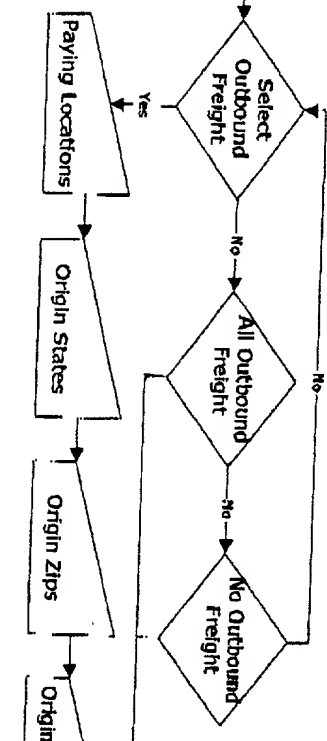
Make Inbound Freight Option Selections



Make Outbound Freight Option Selections



Make Third Party Freight Option Selections



096709001-101900

Delete

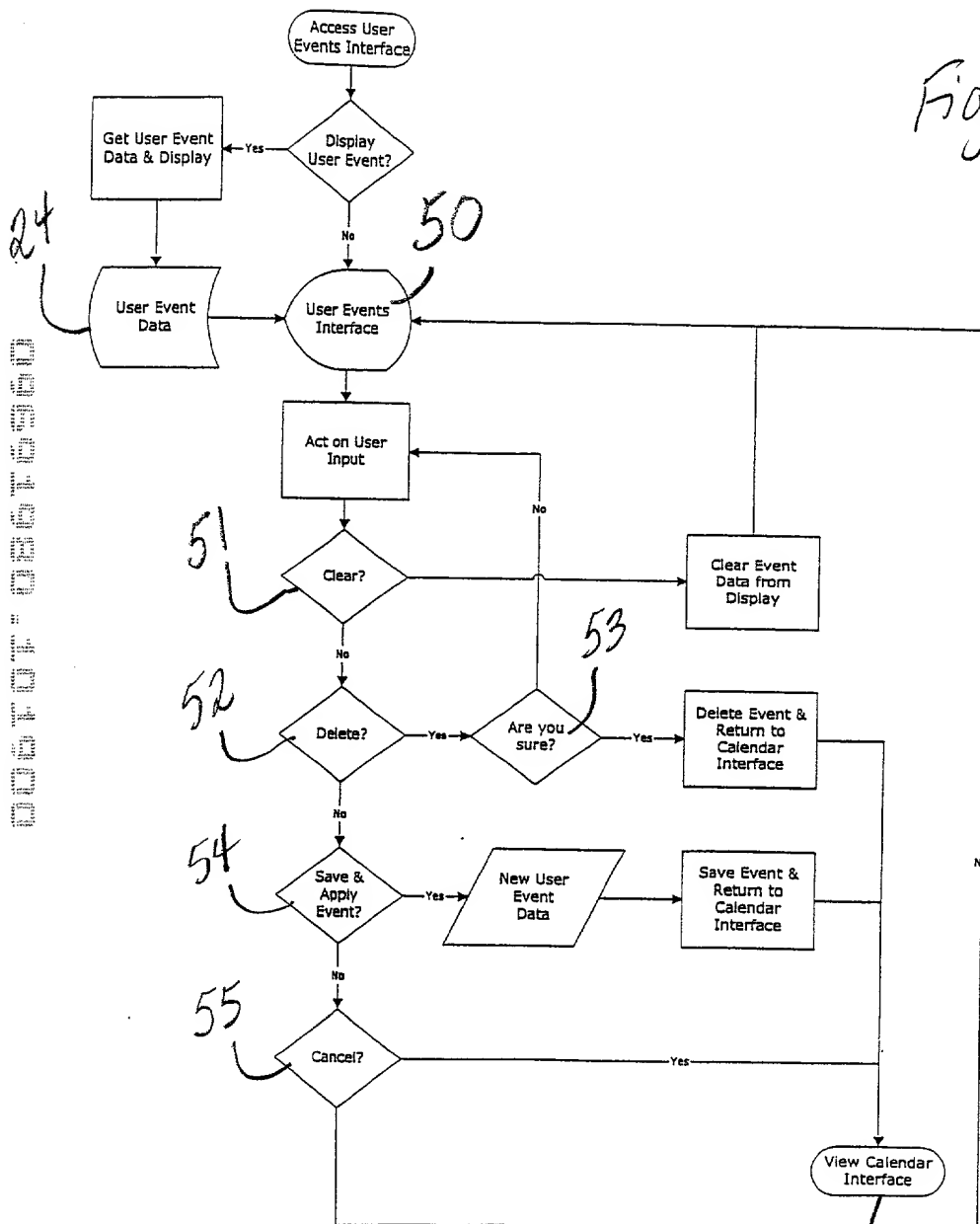


Fig. 13

Fig. 12

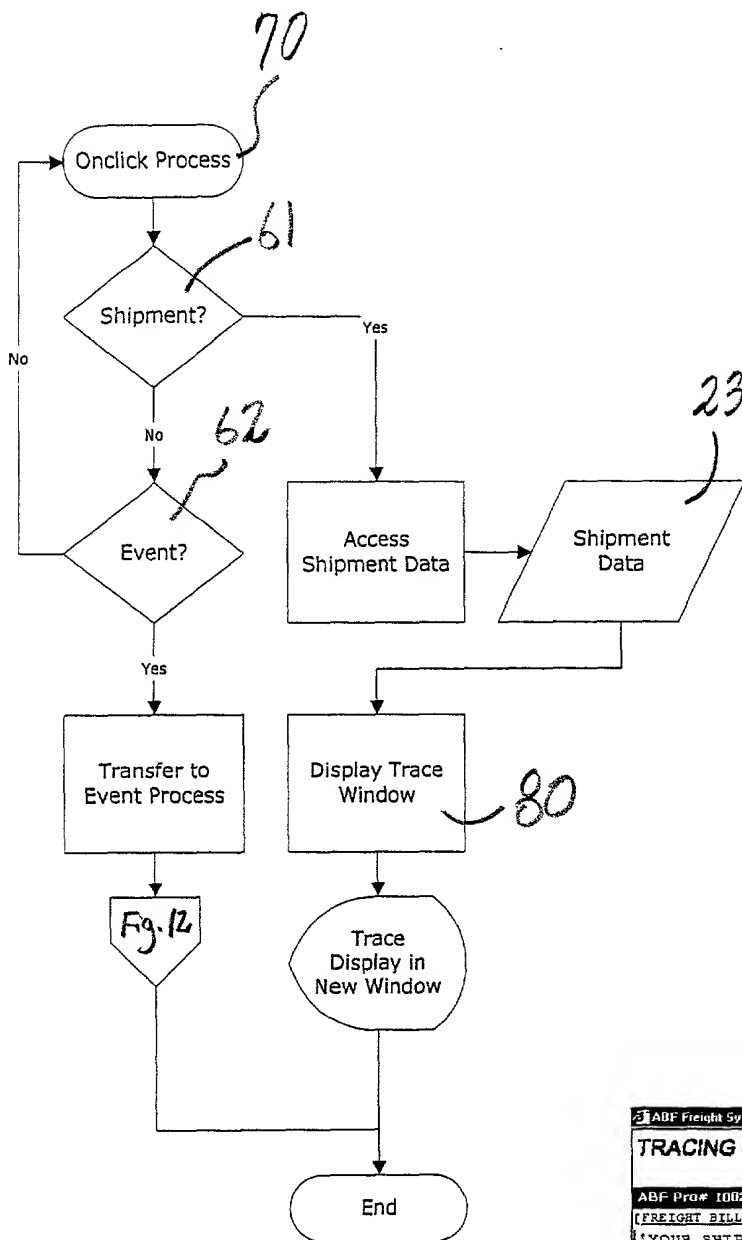
[illegible]

Fig. 14

ABF Freight System, Inc. - Tracing - Microsoft Internet Explorer

http://www.abffreight.com/

## TRACING - 100222333

Close Window Print

---

ABF Pra# 100222333

[FREIGHT BILL] [BOL]

'YOUR SHIPMENT IS AT SALT LAKE CITY, UT AND IS READY FOR UNLOADING.'

Origin	Destination
154 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	334 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
GOODSBYWEB.COM	XYZ CORP.
100 NORTH MAIN	100 ARAPAHOE WAY
SAN DIEGO, CA 91911	DENVER, CO 80202
Pickup: 2000-07-27	Projected Delivery: 2000-08-03

BOL#: 100-ABC  
 PO#: 200100911  
 Pieces: 1  
 Weight: 305

? Questions about the status of this shipment may be sent via e-mail to the origin or destination service centers.

Fig. 15

85

25                      26                      27  
 AB 444555                      10020045                      AD 2233114  
 ABF Pro#: 100222555  
 PO: AD2233114  
 1  
 YOUR SHIPMENT WAS  
 DELIVERED ON 07/27/00 (DEL 844  
 SIG= JOHN DOE) 845

Fig. 16

86

24                      25                      26  
 AB 1234422                      AB 444555                      10020045  
 Lunch  
 Lunch with John at the Garden on  
 100th Street.  
 Duration: 12:00 PM - 1:00 PM  
 155012033                      162000791                      Lunch

Fig. 17



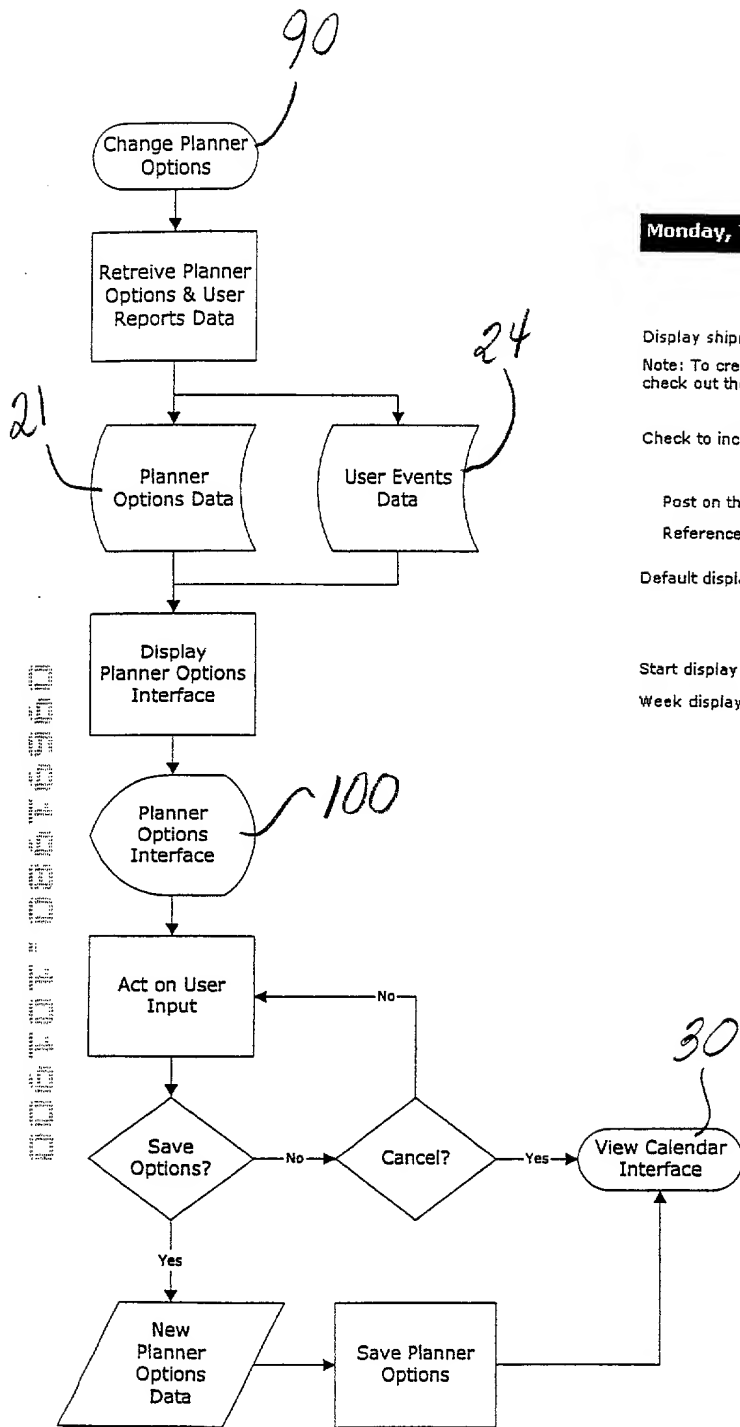


Fig. 18

Monday, 7-31-2000 2:35 PM Full Screen Add Event Options

Display shipments based on this report: ALL SHIPMENTS

Note: To create a new report, check out the [Reports](#) page.

ALL SHIPMENTS, PICKED UP LAST 14 DAYS, STANDARD FORMAT, PRO#

Check to include: ☒ Inbound ☒ Outbound ☒ Third Party

Post on this date: Due or Delivery Due or Delivery Due or Delivery

Reference by: Purchase Order # Bill of Lading # ABF Pro #

Default display by: ☐ Month ☒ Week ☐ Day

☐ Display planner only (remove header and footer).

☐ Expand planner to screen size (based on your monitor).

Start display with: ☒ Current date ☐ First active shipment date

Week display: ☐ Horizontal days ☒ Vertical days

Save & Apply Options Cancel

Fig. 19

# Declaration and Power of Attorney for Patent Application

## English Language Declaration

Express Mail No. EL121022945US

As a below named inventor, I hereby declare that:

My residence, post office address and citizenship are as stated below next to my name,

I believe I am the original, first and sole/joint inventor of the subject matter which is claimed and for which a patent is sought on the invention entitled

ELECTRONIC SHIPMENT PLANNER

the specification of which

☒ is attached hereto.

☐ was filed on \_\_\_\_\_ as

Application Serial No. \_\_\_\_\_

and was amended on \_\_\_\_\_.

I hereby state that I have reviewed and understand the contents of the above identified specification, including the claims, as amended by any amendment referred to above.

I acknowledge the duty to disclose to the Patent and Trademark Office all information known to me to be material to patentability as defined in Title 37, Code of Federal Regulations, Section 1.56.

If this application is a continuation-in-part application, I acknowledge the duty to disclose to the Patent and Trademark Office all information known to me to be material to patentability as defined in Title 37, Code of Federal Regulations, Section 1.56, which became available between the filing date of the prior application and the national or PCT international filing date of this continuation-in-part application.

I hereby claim foreign priority benefits under Title 35, United States Code, Section 119 of any foreign application(s) for patent or inventor's certificate listed below and have also identified below any foreign application for patent or inventor's certificate having a filing date before that of the application on which priority is claimed:

Prior Foreign Application(s)

Priority Claimed

_____ (Number)	_____ (Country)	_____ (Day/Month/Year Filed)	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
_____ (Number)	_____ (Country)	_____ (Day/Month/Year Filed)	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No

I hereby claim the benefit under Title 35, United States Code, Section 120 of any United States application(s) listed below, and insofar as the subject matter of each of the claims of this application is not disclosed in the prior United States application in the manner provided by the first paragraph of Title 35, United States Code, Section 112, I acknowledge the duty to disclose material information as defined in Title 37, Code of Federal Regulations, Section 1.56(a) which occurred between the filing date of the prior application and the national or PCT international filing of this application:

60/174,887  
(Application Serial No.)

January 7, 2000  
(Filing Date)

Pending  
(Status - Patented, Pending, Abandoned)

(Application Serial No.)

(Filing Date)

(Status - Patented, Pending, Abandoned)

I hereby declare that all statements made hereby of my own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further that statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under Section 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application or any patent issued thereon.

POWER OF ATTORNEY: As a named inventor, I hereby appoint the following attorney(s) and/or agents(s) to prosecute this application and transact all business in the Patent and Trademark Office connected therewith: W. THAD ADAMS, III, REG. NO. 29,037; JEFFREY J. SCHWARTZ, REG. NO. 37,532; J. DEREL MONTEITH, JR., REG. NO. 45,464 and T. PEIGE WISE, REG. NO. 44,407 addressed to:

ADAMS, SCHWARTZ & EVANS, P.A.  
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301 S. Tryon Street  
Charlotte, North Carolina 28282  
Telephone: 704-375-9249  
Facsimile: 704-375-0729

I request that all correspondence, telephone calls and/or facsimiles be directed to W. Thad Adams, III, Jeffrey J. Schwartz, J. Derel Monteith, Jr. or T. Peige Wise at their above-stated address.

Robert A. Davidson \* Robert A. Davidson \* 10/17/2000 U.S.  
Full name of sole or first inventor Inventor's signature Date Citizenship

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Residence Address Post Office Address

Fort Smith, Arkansas 72903

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Fort Smith, Arkansas 72903

Michael Newcity \* Michael Newcity \* 10/17/2000 U.S.  
Full name of third inventor Inventor's signature Date Citizenship

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Residence Address Post Office Address

Fort Smith, Arkansas 72903

006717-00000000